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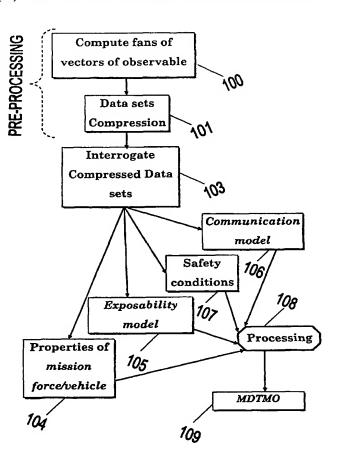
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(54) Title: A METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR PROCESSING AND ANALYZING DIGITAL TERRAIN DATA



(57) Abstract: A method for processing and analyzing digital terrain data utilizing Digital Terrain Elevation Data (DTED). The method comprises defining approach azimuth and visibility limitations angle which are used for defining directional fans by determining fan opening angle, fan azimuth, and maximal range for terrain analysis. At least one directional fan data set is constructed from at least one source point within the DTED, where the directional fan includes line of sight information between said source point and DTED points located within said directional fan. The method further comprises interrogating said data sets by one or more queries to obtain terrain information for given approach conditions.



European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 G01B21/00 G01C21/00 G06T15/40 G05D1/06 F41G7/34 According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC B. FIELDS SEARCHED Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G01B G01C G05D F41G G06T Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data, INSPEC C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Relevant to daim No. Category ° 1,21 US 4 805 108 A (FEUERSTEIN DIETER W ET Α AL) 14 February 1989 (1989-02-14) abstract; figures 1,2 1,23 US 5 504 686 A (LIPPITT CARL E ET AL) Α 2 April 1996 (1996-04-02) cited in the application abstract; figures 2,5 1,23 US 5 526 260 A (KODET THOMAS A ET AL) Α. 11 June 1996 (1996-06-11) abstract; figures 4,-6 Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed Invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another dtation or other special reason (as specified) "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the ent "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed in the art. "&" document member of the same patent family Date of mailing of the international search report Date of the actual completion of the international search 12/08/2004 5 August 2004 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL – 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31–70) 340–2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax: (+31–70) 340–3016 Vorropoulos, G

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